Closure of industrial units

2289. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 250,000 industrial units have closed down over the last few years, costing jobs of large number of workers; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to prevent such disruption of the industry causing hardships to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) According to the information collected by the Labour Bureau on voluntary basis, 495 industrial units had closed down during 1999 to September, 2002.

(b) Safeguards are provided under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to protect the interests of workers affected by such closures. A scheme for counseling, retraining and redeployment of rationalized workers of Central Public Sector Undertakings has also been introduced from 2001-2002 with a thrust on self-employment of the rationalized employees.

Child labour

2290. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Child labour narrate tales of woe" which appeared in the "Deccan Herald", dated the 16th November, 2002;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the number of child labour and the sectors employing them in the country, State-wise and sector-wise; and

(c) the details of the measures taken to free the child labour from their employers, to rehabilitate them and to eliminate child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government has noted the contents of the news item referred.

(b) Authentic information on child labour is generated during the decennial census. As per the 1991 Census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million. The State-wise position is indicated in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below). More than 90% of child labour is engaged in rural areas, in agriculture and allied employments like cultivation, livestock, forestry and fisheries. The Census figures of 2001 are yet to be published.

(c) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes listed to the Schedule of the Act. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable to be prosecuted. The Central Government and State/Union Territories Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child labour related provisions of the laws. Government of India has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of Child Labour working in hazardous occupations to reduce the incidence of child labour in a particular district through the Scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP). Under the Scheme, special schools have been set up in the child labour endemic districts with the provision for non-formal/formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, health/care etc. So far, 100 NCLPs have been sanctioned in 13 child labour endemic districts for coverage of 2.11 lakh children.

Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its form. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour, begining with children working in hazardous occupations.

Statement

Regarding "Child Labour"

State-wise Distribution of Working Children According to 1991 Census

		1991
	Name of the State/UT	Workers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,661,940
2.	Assam	327,598
3.	Bihar	942,245
4.	Gujarat	523,585
5.	Haryana	109,691
6.	Himachal Pradesh	56,438
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	**
8.	Karnataka	976,247
9.	Kerala	34,800
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1,352,563
11.	Maharashtra	1,068,418
12.	Manipur	16,493
13.	Meghalaya	34,633
14.	Nagaland	16,476
15.	Orissa	452,394
16.	Punjab	142,868
17.	Rajasthan	774,199
18.	Sikkim	5,598
19.	Tamil Nadu	578,889
20.	Tripura	16,478
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1,410,086
22.	West Bengal	711,691
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1,265
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	12,395

	Name of the State/UT	Workers
25.	Chandigarh	1,870
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4,416
27.	Delhi	27,351
28.	Daman and Diu	941
29.	Goa	4,656
30.	Lakshadweep	34
31.	Mizoram	16,411
32.	Pondicherry	2,680
	TOTAL:	11,285,349

* Includes figures of Mizo district also which then formed part of Assam.

** Census could not be conducted.

NB: Figures for 1991 relates to workers of age group 5-14 years.

Impact of globalisation on agricultural labour

†2291. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report of the International Union of Food and Agriculture workers on the impact of globalisation on agricultural labour in the country;

(b) if so, whether this report mentions about the new facilities provided to the agricultural labour after globalisation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the views expressed in this report on the condition of the agricultural labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. The Government have not received any such report as yet.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.